

THE PETRONAS TWIN TOWERS AND THE KUALA LUMPUR CITY CENTRE  
FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF CRITICAL REGIONALISM

ISMAEEL OTUOZE AUDU

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To my beloved parents

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## **ABSTRACT**

Critical regionalism is a post modern theory conceived as an architecture of resistance to bring back humanistic agenda to architecture to create a contemporary regional identity, an aspect which modernism neglected. This thesis cites an already established strategy of critical regionalism which is a combination of the visions of the progenitors of the theory. This thesis groups these strategies into place-making and place-form making concepts, and distinguishes them through the meanings which they manifest through experience of place and physical form of place respectively. The purpose of this research was to use place-making and place-form making concepts to examine how the mega development of Petronas Twin Towers and Kuala Lumpur City Centre (KLCC) established meaning in the built-form using place making and place-form making concepts. Human agenda in architecture is manifested by shared meanings and experience of place that stimulate human response which are achievable through place making and place-form making methods. The thesis explored a descriptive and interpretative research methodology while simultaneously using critical regionalism as a theoretical lens to critically analyze the mega development of KLCC. The thesis strove to expand knowledge on critical regionalism through place making and place form making methods that stimulate human response and build a contemporary regional identity. Mega developments which are places for recreation, symbols of pride and community identity, like KLCC, should be developed with the intention and art of place making and place form making methods to stimulate human response. The thesis contribution to Malaysian context lies in the expansion of knowledge of critical regionalism because it is a concept that has not been established yet in Malaysia.

## ABSTRAK

Kritikan regionalisma adalah teori pasca moden yang mengandungi senibina rintangan yang bertujuan mewujudkan semula agenda kemanusiaan di dalam seni bina untuk menghasilkan identiti regional yang kontemporari, iaitu aspek yang diabaikan di dalam modernisma. Tesis ini merujuk kepada satu strategi yang telah diiktiraf dalam regionalisme kritikal yang merupakan gabungan visi teori leluhur. Tesis ini menghimpunkan strategi ini kepada konsep ‘pembuatan-tempat’ (*place-making*) dan ‘bentuk-tempat’ (*place-form*), perbezaan di antara mereka adalah melalui pandangan mereka terhadap pengalaman tempat dan bentuk fizikal tempat masing-masing. Tujuan kajian ini adalah, menggunakan konsep ‘pembuatan-tempat’ dan ‘bentuk-tempat’ untuk mengkaji bagaimana pembangunan mega menara berkembar Petronas dan pusat bandar Kuala Lumpur menghasilkan identiti regional kontemporari dengan merangsang tindak balas manusia. Agenda manusia di dalam senibina adalah dipaparkan oleh makna perkongsian dan pengalaman sesuatu tempat yang merangsang tindak balas manusia yang dicapai melalui kaedah ‘pembuatan-tempat’ dan ‘bentuk-tempat’. Metodologi kajian ini adalah deskriptif dan bersifat penafsiran. Pada masa yang sama menggunakan kritikal regionalisma sebagai pandangan teori untuk menganalisa secara kritikal terhadap pembangunan besar KLCC. Kajian ini berusaha mengembangkan pengetahuan terhadap kritikal regionalisma melalui kaedah ‘pembuatan-tempat’ dan ‘bentuk-tempat’ yang merangsang tindak balas manusia dan membina identiti wilayah yang kontemporari. Pembangunan mega yang merupakan tempat berekreasi, simbol kemegahan dan identiti masyarakat, seperti KLCC, patut dibangunkan dengan kaedah seni ‘pembuatan-tempat’ dan ‘bentuk-tempat’ untuk merangsang tindak balas manusia. Sumbangan tesis kepada konteks Malaysia terletak dalam pengembangan pengetahuan regionalisme kritikal kerana ianya adalah satu konsep yang belum ditubuhkan lagi di Malaysia.